

Brethren, my heart's desire and prayer to God for Israel is that they might be saved.—Rom. 10:1

ALESTI

# Jordan is Palestine

#### By Mudar Zahran / MEForum.org

The Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan has weathered the storm that has swept across the Middle East. But the relative calm in Amman is an illusion. In truth, the Palestinians, the country's largest ethnic group, have developed a profound hatred of the regime and view the Hashemites as occupiers of eastern Palestine – intruders rather than legitimate rulers. The Palestinian National Charter considers Palestine with its original mandate borders (i.e., Jordan) as the indivisible homeland of the Palestinian Arab people. This makes a regime change in Jordan likely. Such a change, however, would not be confined to the toppling of yet another Arab despot but would also open the door to the only viable peace solution -aPalestinian state in Jordan.

King Abdullah claims that the Palestinians make up a mere 43 percent. But a 2007 report, written in cooperation with several Jordanian government bodies, stated that at least two thirds of Jordan's population were of Palestinian origin.

### Israel's 24-hour Global News Network

IsraelToday.co.il

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Israel has been talking about fielding a global news network to

compete with the likes of CNN, the BBC, and Al Jazeera for years. It appears that dream might finally come true this summer with the launch of i24news.

Privately funded so that it will not rely on government backing or donations from the Jewish community, i24news will be based in the greater Tel Aviv area from where it will broadcast worldwide in English, French, and Arabic.

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## Jordan is Palestine continued from cover

In most countries with human-rights violations, vulnerable minorities are the typical victims. This is not the case in Jordan where a Palestinian majority is discriminated against by the ruling Hashemite dynasty, propped up by a minority Bedouin population. Jordanian-Palestinians are encumbered with high tariffs, a 16% sales tax, a high corporate tax, and an inescapable income tax. Most of their Bedouin fellow citizens are servicemen or public servants who get a free pass.

But Abdullah shouldn't want the Palestinians out of his kingdom. It is the Palestinians who drive the country's economy: They pay heavy taxes; receive close to zero state benefits; are almost completely shut out of government jobs; and have very little, if any, political representation.

The Hashemites' discriminatory policies against the Palestinians have been overlooked by the West for one main reason: If the Palestinians were empowered, they might topple the Hashemites and transform Jordan into a springboard for terror attacks against Israel. The Hashemite regime is keenly aware of U.S. and Israeli fears and has created a situation where the world would have to choose between the Hashemites and the Muslim Brotherhood as Jordan's rulers. To this end, it has supported the Muslim Brotherhood for decades, allowing it to operate freely in Jordan.

Both Jerusalem and Washington have chosen to accept the Hashemite regime as Both Jerusalem and washington have chosen to use it is, preferring the devil they know to the devil they don't. The facts on the ground, Back to Cover however, suggest that the devil they think they know is in deep trouble with its own constituency.

Despite their lavish privileges, Jordanian Bedouins insist on a bigger piece of the cake, demanding more privileges from the king. Bedouins make up the army, the police forces, all the security agencies, and the Jordanian General Intelligence Department. The regime is unlikely to survive any serious confrontations with them.

The Palestinians are a bomb waiting to explode, especially as they watch their fellow Arabs rebelling against autocrats.

The destabilizing measures taken by the Hashemite regime to maintain its hold on power emphasize a need to revive the long-ignored solution to the Arab-Israeli conflict: the Jordanian option. With Jordan home to the largest percentage of Palestinians in the world, it is a more logical location for establishing Palestinian statehood than on another country's soil, i.e., Israel's. There is, in fact, almost nothing un-Palestinian about Jordan except for the royal family. -

#### See the complete article and supporting documents at www.meforum.org/3121/jordan-is-palestinian.

This is a key truth to the Middle East conflict. Walid Shoebat, former PLO terrorist turned Christian advocate for Israel, wryly told me years ago, "In June 1967, I went to bed a Jordanian and woke up a 'Palestinian'." He recognizes that Jordan is the ancestral (and mandated) home of many who have assumed the name "Palestinian," per Yasser Arafat's narrative. The most significant "Arab Springboard" may yet come ... in Jordan! — Myles









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Israel's 24-hour Global News Network (continued from cover sidebar)

A number of prominent figures from the Israeli broadcasting scene have joined i24news, giving it a far better chance of success than previous proposals for an Israeli global news network.

With Israel and the conflicts surrounding it commanding so much focus from the international media, it makes sense for the Jewish state to be broadcasting news from its perspective to a global audience.

Those interested can already visit www.i24news.tv and sign up to be notified when the channel officially launches.



# The Ascent of all Believers

Katharine Weiss ZLP Co-host



Scriptures speak of the "Psalms of Ascent" from Psalm 120 to Psalm 134. These 15 songs are meant to carry the spirit of the worshipper up to Jerusalem, to the Temple to meet with God. The Hebrew word to ascend is *ma'aloth*.

These psalms have been heard for centuries in the Holy City and are tied to the three feast periods — the *moedim* (appointed times) — when the Israelites were to come up to Jerusalem. Deuteronomy 16:16–17 refers to Passover, Pentecost, and Tabernacles: "Three times a year all your males shall appear before the Lord your God in the place which He chooses: at the Feast of Unleavened Bread, at the Feast of Weeks, and at the Feast of Tabernacles; and they shall not appear before the Lord empty-handed."

These Great Feasts (thusly called because they are commanded) also appear in Psalm 84:5–7 "Blessed ['Happy': Asher in Hebrew] is the man whose strength is in You, Whose heart is set on pilgrimage. As they pass through the Valley of Baca, They make it a spring; The rain also covers it with pools. They go from strength to strength; Each one appears before God in Zion." As Believers, we are all to be moving up, as if still going up to Jerusalem. In the spirit realm, we are to be drawing nearer to the Lord at all times.



Remember, when Yeshua sat with the "woman at the well" in John 4, He told her that the hour was coming when the true worshippers would worship Him in spirit and in truth. These Psalms of Ascent point us in the right direction!

Hebrews 12:22 says we have come up to Zion (not Sinai), the City of God, which is heavenly Jerusalem ... and an innumerable company of angels bears witness to the call!

The Talmud (Babylonian Sukkah 51b; Babylonian Midrash 2.5) states that these 15 psalms correlate to the 15 steps leading up to the Temple. This association is so powerful that the Septuagint, the Latin

Vulgate, and Jerome labeled each psalm "a Song of the Steps."

I have found that to "go up" in my relationship with the Lord entails an act of getting "low" because humility is the way up! Even today when we visit the Temple's Southern Steps, we traverse original stones from the time of Jesus. These steps are uneven and force the pilgrim to consider his way carefully. I find myself looking down before a Holy God—on the steps, in my home, before my Bible.

The Israelites kept seven feasts when the Temples stood. Yeshua fulfilled them all. In a sense, there is an eighth feast to come: The Marriage Supper of the Lamb will represent a new beginning with Him, the Bridegroom of Heaven. "Let us rejoice and be glad, and give Him glory, for the marriage of the Lamb has come and His wife has made herself ready" (Revelation 19:7).



# The Acute Jihadist Threat in Europe

By Scott Stewart and Sidney Brown / Stratfor.com

In March, the Belgian federal police's counterterrorism force (Special Units) conducted a felony car stop on Hakim Benladghem, a 39-yearold French citizen of Algerian extraction. When Benladghem reacted aggressively, he was shot and killed. The Special Units had intelligence from their French counterparts that he was heavily armed. Additional intelligence showed that Benladghem had traveled extensively and appeared to be connected to the international jihadist movement.

Belgian authorities are now undoubtedly working with their allies to investigate Benladghem's contacts to determine the scope of the network he was a part of and what threat his associates still pose. This is a reminder of the challenges that radicalized European Muslims present for European authorities.

There are long, historic ties between the Muslim world and Europe. From the earliest days of Islam and the invasion of Spain and France in the early 700s, through the Crusades and the European colonization of North Africa and South Asia in the 1700s and 1800s, to the fall of the Ottoman Empire in the wake of World War I and the European colonization of the Middle East, the threads of Europe and the Muslim world have been tightly woven together by geopolitics into a vivid tapestry of conflict and cooperation.

But this close relationship has not been without friction. Though a large portion of Muslims in Europe come from families who have lived there for four or five generations, many have not become integrated into European society and frequently live in isolated, Muslim-dominated areas. Moreover, the Muslim population has been hit particularly hard by Europe's economic crisis, and the unemployment rate for young Muslims is alarmingly high. This leaves many Muslims feeling alienated, disenfranchised, and resentful.

Europe's immigration and asylum laws have



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exacerbated this situation, granting refuge to many jihadist ideologues who were persecuted in their home countries, and allowing them to set up shop on the Continent where Europe's Muslim areas provided target-rich environments for the jihadist preachers looking to recruit disaffected young Muslims. Incidents such as the French burka ban and anti-Islamic rhetoric of politicians like Geert Wilders reinforce the narrative put forward by jihadist recruiters that Islam is under attack from Europeans and help the preachers' efforts to recruit new followers.

While young Muslim men can become radicalized and are often sought for the purpose of recruitment, they are not the only demographic susceptible. Older adults with university degrees and clean criminal backgrounds can easily travel between Europe and other foreign countries and are less likely to raise suspicions than the young men. Women can also become radicalized and can serve as important conduits for funds and intelligence or as recruiters and propagandists. These conditions have made it very difficult to mitigate the jihadist threat in Europe. If anything, based on the tempo of attacks, plots, and arrests, the threat is growing more acute. (See related info on pp. 17 and 20.)

# The Gospel in the Aleph-Bet | Myles To Go By Myles Weiss ZLP Co-host



The Hebrew language is so elegant, so poetic, and pictorial that it speaks to all mankind of the Person and character of God. The more I study it (and I consider myself a novice), the more convinced I become that there is more to it than just the necessity for accurate translation. It is a living, breathing language, and God Himself speaks through it.

Just as the Scriptures are spiritual, wrapped in an earthly covering of parchment and letters, the Word is the Second Person of the Godhead, wrapped in human flesh. He is Spirit, and His words are spirit ... they are life!

Consider the first few letters of the language. Aleph, the first letter, is also the first letter of Av, meaning "father," and represents the Father in Heaven. Aleph's written Hebrew character derives from an ox, which stands for strength. Bet, letter two, is the first letter of *Ben*, meaning "son," and stands for the Son of God. Its character depicts a house. A camel, the animal that travels long distances with provisions, represents *Gimmel*, the third letter; it also represents the Holy Spirit, Who comes from afar with gifts and fruit for mankind. A door makes the character for *Dalet*, the fourth letter.

What of the mysterious letter number five, Hey? Hey speaks of the breath and mystery of God. Hey is "window" in both meaning and depiction. The sages in Israel note that this is the mysterious breath that God added to Abram in Genesis 17:5 and Sarai in Genesis 17:15. He breathed into them His essence and changed their names to Abraham (father of many) and Sarah (princess). He did this with the accompanying promise that generations of Jewish people and "whosoevers" would be grafted into the commonwealth of Israel.

A closer look shows us something very intriguing. With the 5th letter in place, we see that the Father, Son, Holy Spirit (Aleph, Bet, Gimmel) are positioned at the door (Dalet) to go through and sup with man, to reveal the breath of God (Hey). The poetry reveals the Gospel in the very first letters of the language.

(continued next page)



# The Gospel: Myles continues



There is much more in the mysterious, renewed language of God's people. The four Hebrew letters that correspond to YHWH, the Tetragrammaton (the unspeakable name of God), that Jewish people say as "HaShem" (the Name) out of respect, also point to Yeshua the Messiah! Yod Hey Vav Hey (YHVH) is variously written as Jehovah, Yahweh, even Adonai in order to avoid insulting the King.

Yet these letters point to the cross, to wit: Yod (hand), Hey (mysterious breath / person), Vav (nail), Hey (mystery) translate as "the hands are outstretched through the mystery of God and nails mark them"!

The Gospel in the Hebrew language!

The Jewish Messiah pictured in His own language!

May Your own people see You! Come, Lord Yeshua!

As you read my article, please remember that this ministry holds to a literal and inerrant Bible interpretation. The Scriptures are worthy of a lifetime of study



without ever looking into apocryphal, Talmudic. Kabbalistic, or mystical resources. HOWEVER. because God is the Master Artist and Poet... it is interesting that the Hebrew alphabet points to the redeeming work of Yeshua HaMashiach!

\*

Cross







## **Caves of Arbela:** The Ultimate Hiding Place

**Mount Arbel**, just north of Tiberias, is a stunning site that oozes with Jewish history. In fact, well over 2,000 years ago it was filled with Jews! They lived on the mountain in two different kinds of housing: One group resided in dwellings

on the mountaintop and the others occupied natural caves that had been gouged out of the limestone by rainwater over many millennia. Their town was called Arbela.

Arbela's cave dwellers built ritual



baths and water cisterns, and enlarged the caves in order to make their homes more comfortable. And at different times over the course of Israel's turbulent history, the caves were fortified and connected with an internal staircase.

In 161 B.C., Greek commander Bacchides passed through Arbela on his way to battle Judah Maccabee in Jerusalem. Most of the townspeople rose up against the Greek army and were slaughtered, with only a few able to flee.

Arbela's Jews found themselves in the midst of battle again more than a century later, after the Romans appointed Herod absolute ruler over Israel. Resistance to the move was fierce, especially in the Galilee, and Herod took violent steps to consolidate his position.

Yet, though he fought and defeated most of the opposition, Herod could not vanquish the guerrilla cave dwellers of Arbela. In fact, his troops found it impossible to reach the caves, which were well-fortified and situated within extremely steep cliffs atop a very deep valley. Herod's soldiers only gained entrance after being lowered in chests, precariously, from the top of the cliffs. Most of the people inside the caves were soon killed by the Roman soldiers. Those who survived preferred death to captivity and jumped into the riverbed below—exactly as thousands of Jews would do a few decades later, when the Romans attacked the town of Gamla, during the Great Revolt.

The Great Revolt between Jews and Romans began in the Galilee in the year 66. In an attempt to protect the people of Arbela, Galilee commander Yoseph ben Matityahu added walls and other fortifications to the town's caves: "Moreover, he built walls about the caves near the lake of Gennesar, which places lay in the Lower Galilee." (from Wars of the Jews)

The historian who wrote these words was Matityahu himself: He surrendered to the Romans during the revolt, renamed himself Josephus Flavius, and authored several extremely important books that, among other subjects, document Jewish history.

# Israel's History: All About Roots

By Aviva and Shmuel Bar-Am / TimesOfIsrael.com

The oldest of our ancient trees have lived through wars, religious upheavals, conquests, and defeats; the youngest have seen the return of the Jews to their ancient homeland.

Legend holds that after the Temple was destroyed, all the trees in the Land of Israel shed their leaves in mourning. All the trees, that is, except for the olive.

"Why are you not sad?" the other trees asked the olive. "You, who provided oil for the sacred menorah, why are you not full of sorrow, as we are?"

The olive tree replied, "Can you not see the torment in my heart?" And, indeed, olive trees are twisted and gnarled, as if their hearts are in travail.

Unless their leaves are swaying in the breeze — or falling in a forest — trees rarely make a sound. Yet what if they could talk? As the oldest forms of life in the universe, they could tell riveting stories about long-ago events and the people who made them happen. In the next issues we look at a few, with their fascinating tales.

#### Atlantic Terebinth in the Kedesh Valley

"And Absalom was riding upon his mule, and the mule went under the thick boughs of a great terebinth, and his head caught hold of the terebinth, and he was taken up between the heaven and the earth; and the mule that was under him went on." (2 Sam 18:9)

The stunning 450-year-old Atlantic Terebinth located in the Galilee's Kedesh Valley is considered to be the oldest and biggest of its kind in the country. Indeed, it is so impressive that one of its ancestors could easily have caught Absalom's heavy mane in its branches.

Today, located inside a charming JNF recreation area along Route 899, the old tree can provide shade – or so we were told – for more than 50 people at one time! Adding ambience to the site are several younger terebinth.

## As a child I participated in the reforesting of Israel through Hebrew School projects. ZLM continues, with entire groves planted by our pilgrims. Truly, the land has come back to life! The olive trees continue to tell the great story of Israel and the Gospel. —Myles







### Two Israels By EITAN SHISHKOFF / Our Man in Haifa

They came from cities like Casablanca and Marrakesh, Morocco. In the early years of Israel's statehood, many Jews returned to this reborn nation from the North African and Middle Eastern countries where they had found refuge from the Spanish expulsion of 1492. Termed "Sephardic Jews" because of their earlier roots in Spain, these immigrants found harsh conditions when they arrived in Israel in the 1950s and early 1960s. Many were housed in the ma'abarot (tent camps) hastily erected to handle the influx of families without financial resources. Although many had been prosperous in Morocco, Iraq, Syria, Yemen, and Algeria, their circumstances were now minimal.

Yet within a mere 50 years – basically two generations-those who arrived as children between 1948 and 1964 succeeded at an astounding level. This observation occurred to me during a traditional mimuna celebration at the end of Passover, when Moroccan Jews open their homes to welcome spring and a return to yeasted breads. I truly enjoyed the lavish hospitality of dear friends who came to Israel with their families in the era described above. More and more guests arrived, filling up the attractive new apartment and balcony in central Israel. Dressed in the latest fashions and bringing expensive gifts, the vast majority of those celebrating had spent their early Israeli years

blessings of God, one can carve out a new life in this ancient Land.

Ironically, earlier the same day, I had visited an immigrant couple from the former Soviet Union (FSU). Not unlike their Sephardic predecessors, this family arrived with very little in the way of possessions. They are still struggling. Together, the couple earns enough to survive, but not really enough to pay for a family automobile or school expenses (in Israeli public schools, books and academic help are not free). They are not bitter but long to provide more amply for their children.

This couple, in Israel about 14 years, is not an exception. While many from the FSU have risen rapidly on the social/ political scale in Israel, the vast majority are still battling to make ends meet. It's not inexpensive to live in Israel. Long hours and low pay typify the plight of many families who've immigrated since the early '90s.

This contrast of the two waves of immigration brings me to applause for the success of the earlier wave, and to tears for those in the second who continue to labor under the weight of "first generation" obstacles. These two Israels are moving forward, side by side. The second wave explains why we termed our work here "Tents of Mercy."

learning Hebrew and enduring socioeconomic hardship.

What a Cinderella story! I was struck by the transformation and impressive advancement of those now considered "Israeli Israelis." It proves that with determination, hard work, and the







### The "Road Map" Theory CLASSIC ZOLA: 2003—10 years ago

In lamenting media bias, Zola pointed out their repeated – but mistaken – claims that Israel is unsafe. Then he continued: Another distortion is the need for a "Road Map" in order to get peace in Israel. Once again, don't be fooled.

The Road Map is no better than previous peace processes that have paraded down from Madrid, Oslo, and Camp David over the years. The answer to peace in Israel is simply for the Palestinians to stop killing Israelis. That's all that's needed. If tomorrow morning there were no Palestinians trying to kill Israelis, Israel would have no need to retaliate or arrest anyone. If the same thing continued the next day, and the day after that, there would be an end to the conflict.

If we were going to be consistent with the Road Map for Peace by giving half



of Israel to the Palestinians, then in our nation

we should also give half of the South to the Ku Klux Klan, half of the Midwest to the militias, half of New York to the Mafia, and half of Los Angeles to the gangs. To think like [the president], when people are murdering those around them, give them part of the land!

Let's have a Road Map for the KKK, the militias, the Mafia, and the gangs. Of course, the real answer is that those who murder, whether in the U.S. or Israel, don't deserve to have someone else's land. And in the Palestinians' case, they have not shown that they can begin to run any organization fairly and honestly, let alone a whole nation. A Palestinian state would obviously fail if it were created, and it would be very hazardous to Israel and to world peace.



### Israel, My Love — 27 Years with Zola Levitt Six 30-Minute TV Programs: 2 DVDs

Zola accepted Jesus as his Messiah on March 14, 1971. Within several years he authored a dozen books and hosted a live talk-radio program. In December 1978, Zola's ministry expanded to television. From then until the end of his life, Zola produced over 700 hours of television that reached millions. This retrospective series of six programs brings you a few highlights of Zola's work, music, and life.

#### Six 30-minute programs include:

- First Love Scripture Upheld Faith Proved
- Covenants Revealed
   Prophecy Unfolded
- Ultimate Victory



Order DVD online at: http://store.levitt.com/DIML (or see page 18.)

## Ask The Chaplain

You say that the Temple must be rebuilt to include all Temple activities, including sacrifice under the Mosaic Law. Did not Jesus come to bring the New Covenant and finish the Law perfectly on the cross when he said, "It is finished"? How do you think God looks on any Mosaic sacrifice now that Jesus has instituted the New Covenant?

There are several passages in the Old Testament that clearly indicate animal sacrifice during the Millennial Kingdom. Passages like Isaiah 56:6–8; Zechariah 14:16; and Jeremiah 33:15–18 mention it in passing. Ezekiel 43:18–46:24 gives the greatest detail. In Ezekiel 40, the Lord begins to give details of the Temple that will exist during the Millennial Kingdom. It will dwarf even Herod's Temple, which stood during the earthly ministry of Christ.

This long passage gives details concerning the size and appearance of the Temple and its altar, then detailed instruction about the animal sacrifices to be offered. In chapter 44, the Lord says who will offer sacrifices to Him – not all the Levites, but those from the lineage of Zadok (verse 15). Chapters 45 and 46 continue to mention animal sacrifices.

The primary objection offered for animal sacrifices during the Millennial Kingdom is, as you point out, that Christ offered a perfect sacrifice for sin; therefore we don't need to sacrifice animals for sin. However, animal sacrifice never removed the sin that spiritually separated a person from the Lord. Hebrews 10:2–4 says, "For the worshipers, once purified, would have had no more consciousness of sins. But in those sacrifices there is a reminder of sins every year. For it is not possible that the blood of bulls and goats could take away sins." **Dr. Todd D. Baker** Zola Levitt Ministries Staff Theologian



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It is incorrect to think that animal sacrifices took away sins in the Old Testament, and it is incorrect to think they will do so during Christ's 1,000-year reign. Animal sacrifices served as object lessons for the sinner: that sin is a horrible offense against God, and that the result of sin is death. Rom. 3:20 says, "Therefore by the deeds of the law no flesh will be justified in His sight, for by the law is the knowledge of sin."

Most premillennial scholars agree that the purpose of animal sacrifice during the Millennial Kingdom is memorial in nature. As the Lord's Supper reminds the Church today of Christ's death, animal sacrifices will be a reminder to those born during the Millennial Kingdom. In that future time, righteousness and holiness will prevail, but those with earthly bodies will still have a sinful nature and will need to be taught how offensive sin is to a holy and righteous God. Animal sacrifices will serve that purpose, as in the days of old: "but in those sacrifices there is a reminder of sins every year" (Hebrews 10:3). 



### To the Jew First Shaliach Repor shaliach

shah-LEE-ack\n. p/ shelichim shell-LEE-kim\: one who is sent.

## **"See, I Have Set Before You An Open Door**" Rev. 3:8 BY DR. TODD D. BAKER / ZLM Staff Theologian

I go where God leads, conducting my business and looking for openings to discuss His message of salvation. The Lord presents some very creative introductions.

On TJF's first outreach to Beersheva, I checked into the local hotel and went to my room. The key card would not open the door - ironically, at the same time, I was praying that the Lord would let His love open the doors to the hearts of the Jewish people to Yeshua (Revelation 3:8).

Yosi from hotel security had to open the door to my room. Little did he know that Ruach Ha Kodesh (the Holy Spirit) would open his ears to the Word of God. Yosi said that his mother was Christian and his father was Jewish. He had decided to be Jewish. I replied that Judaism and Christianity are not separate religions but are joined together by their belief in the same God, the same moral laws, and the coming of the Messiah as foretold in the Old Covenant ... and fulfilled in the New. I

an emissary And how shall they preach, explained to Yosi that my purpose

Jews the opportunity

in coming to

except they be sent? Rm.10:15. Please visit: www.levitt.com/announcements#messiah for "The Promised Messiah" printable tract. Israel was to give

to read both biblical Testaments, each of which draws a portrait of Yeshua as the Messiah. Yosi responded to the challenge of seeing this for himself and accepted a copy of the Hebrew Scriptures. I pray that Yosi will read God's Word and see clearly that the Messiah has already come and is regathering His people to Israel in preparation for His return. This is the whole reason that God sends us to convince Israel that they can be saved and know Yeshua the Jewish Messiah now - and still remain Jews-no "conversion" necessary!

That afternoon, I walked to a nearby shopping mall to find a computer store. I wanted to ask about a newly released model and, of course, use the opportunity for ministry to an Israeli. Nothing opened up for a Gospel witness. Then, one opportunity led to another.

#### (Continued next month.)



If Moses had GPS



### **Returning to Zola's Team**

BY TONY DERRICK / Travel Coordinator / Consultant

This ministry has known and worked with Tony Derrick for twenty years. When he left our tour company in 2008 to join our land agent, I, Mark, wrote a *Levitt Letter* article "Bragging On An Ex-Employee" to describe Tony's then-new enterprise (see p.12 of www.levitt.com/newsletters/2008-07.pdf.)

Now Zola Tours manager Tracie Robbins is responding to a call from an organization combating human trafficking. We will miss her happy spirit and wish her Godspeed in her important new work. Fortunately for Zola Tours, Tony has returned as a consultant — now with more than 12 years of Holy Land tour experience. He has strong credentials: He used to accompany our tours as the praise and worship leader and holds a Master of Divinity degree. He trained under Zola and I am confident that he will keep our pilgrimages just the way Zola intended: pro-Israel study tours that accommodate Bible students who hunger for the meat of the Word (and appreciate the bonus of unparalleled fellowship along the way). Welcome back, Tony. — Mark

In September 2000, the Second Intifada was brewing, and Zola Tours had just completed one of its largest tours on record – four buses. My association with Zola Levitt Ministries since 1989 led Zola to ask if I would manage his tours to Israel. My wife (Jane – who has worked at ZLM since 1989) and I had gone on a Zola Tour in 1999. What an experience! For the first couple of years, Zola taught me the ropes — how to work with land agents, airlines, guides, and drivers and develop itineraries. He eventually entrusted me with the tours' logistics.

Zola had developed a very unique tour experience, and it is on that foundation that Zola Tours continues to this day. A long-running relationship with their land and air agents — all second to none in service and dedication — make a Zola Tour the best Israel experience money can buy! Each tour delivers Bible teaching with a clear focus, communicates the importance of Israel's past and future, and emphasizes the Good News that the Jewish Messiah — Jesus offers redemption to all mankind.

When I left Zola Tours in 2008 – after planning and leading 22 tours to Israel, including a number of extensions to Greece and Jordan – I followed a dream of planning pastor and church tours to Israel. It has been a satisfying experience, one that I continue today.

My good relationship with Zola Tours service agencies ensures the continued excellent tour experience that people have grown to expect. Today, as in days gone by, Zola Tours still offers a splendid experience in travel to the Bible Lands a one-of-a-kind, life-changing experience.







# ZLM Bulletin Board

### **Best Levitt Letter Adoption Story!**

Rather than throwing away your *Levitt Letter*, maybe you: a) passed it to a friend, b) slipped it beneath the windshield wiper of a neighbor's car, c) left it in a doctor's waiting room, or possibly, d) placed it on a library table, like the one at your church. And then, *please tell us*, *what was the outcome*?

We're looking for the best true-life Levitt Letter adoption story. Perhaps a friend of yours renounced Replacement Theology and fell in love with Christianity's Jewish roots. Or maybe a neighbor decided to learn Hebrew and plant a dozen trees in Israel. <u>Please send your</u> true stories to: Attn: LL Adoption Stories, staff@levitt.com. Or you can mail them to our P.O. Box.



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GIVING IN 2013

Free Item

### **Online Israeli Jukebox**

If you were to stuff a Holy Land music station into your computer, you could listen to Jewish tunes and songs in Hebrew for free. Instead you might just cyber surf to

#### www.sky.fm/play/israelihits.

You'll be able to adjust the volume, mute the sound, and under "now playing," see who's performing what. Sky FM offers a premium subscriber option without commercials, but listening for free is a satisfactory way of listening to music from the Apple of God's Eye. While you're at it, you might visit www.levitt.com/daily for Zola's Daily Music Selection and Daily Devotional.

### If You're at least 70<sup>1</sup>/<sub>2</sub>

IRA owners  $70\frac{1}{2}$  and older can make direct contributions of up to \$100,000 of their account's assets to qualified **nonprofit groups.** The donation can count as part of the IRA owner's required annual withdrawal. Charitable gifts of appreciated assets—such as shares that have risen to \$50 apiece from \$5-let the giver skip paying capital-gains taxes and deduct the full market value of the gift, within certain limits. Direct IRA donations often provide a state tax benefit because they lower income. For the entirety of the article from which the above statements were excerpted, please see

http://wp.me/pieUD-1C0.

## Pamphlet of the Month

#### The booklet entitled Your Guide to Effective Giving in 2013

may enhance the impact of your charitable contributions. Whether you donate cash, securities, or other assets such as retirement funds or life insurance, you'll appreciate the specific pointers and a general summary of tax considerations. To receive this bookleat at no charge,

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## **Hebrew**Lesson

The "Super Sign" of Israel...



### הַיּוּחַל אֶרֶץ בְּיוֹם אֶחָד אִם־יִוָּלֵד גוֹי פּעַם אֶחָת

"Shall a land be born in a day? Shall a nation be brought forth in a moment?" - Isaiah 66:8

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**Are we living in the End Times?** Are we part of the "terminal generation" before the return of the Lord? The Torah predicted that the "end of days" would commence only *after* the return of the Jewish people from worldwide dispersion to the Land of Israel (Deut. 30:1–3), and indeed the theme of exile and return is repeated in the prophets (Jer. 23:3; 32:37–38; Ezek. 37:21, etc.). Therefore it is surely *extraordinary* that Israel was reborn as a nation in their ancient homeland on May 14, 1948 (5 Iyar 5708), after nearly 2,000 years of exile among the nations. The existence of the modern State of Israel is entirely consonant with the various New Testament prophecies regarding the advent of the Messiah, since Jesus taught that the Jewish people would reside in the Promised Land at the time of His second coming, and that the city of Jerusalem would be surrounded by enemies of the Jewish state (see Matt. 24–25; Mark 13; Luke 21).

If we understand a "generation" to mean 70-80 years in duration (as stated in Psalm 90:10), then when Jesus said, "this generation (ή γενεὰ αῦτη) shall not pass until all these things take place" (Matt. 24:34), He was referring to the generation that would originate with the restoration of the modern State of Israel, which further implies that Daniel's 70th Week (i.e., the Great Tribulation) could begin very soon indeed, perhaps within as few as 5–15 years (add another 19 years if the generation begins with the annexing of Jerusalem in 1967). And while it is certainly true that the rapture could occur at any time, and that "no one knows the day or hour" of *Yom Adonai HaGadol* (i=<a href="https://www.ite.com">iter</a> (Matt. 16:3) and for missing the "time of their visitation" (Luke 19:44).

"**Shall a land be born in a day?** Shall a nation be brought forth in one moment?" Like other prophecies given in the Scriptures, this one is "dual aspect," since it was *both* partially fulfilled when the Jewish people reestablished the State of Israel in 1948, and it will be entirely fulfilled at the outset of the Millennial Kingdom after the return of Messiah (see Isa. 66:7–16; Rom. 11:26). Meanwhile we behold the miraculous restoration of the "Fig Tree" and understand that the great harvest draws near, friends. May God help each

one of us be awake, ready, with hearts full of steadfast faith (1 John 3:2–3; Titus 2:11–14; Matt. 24:32). *Am Yisrael Chai!* The people of Israel live! Soon and very soon we are going to see our King!

-





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### **The Iranian Menace in Jewish History and Prophecy** Book

Iran is central in end-times prophecy. At a time when Iran has captured the world's attention with nuclear threats, Dr. Jeff Seif harnesses scriptural and secular evidence to support his case for the Iranian-Armageddon Connection. After a glimpse of Iran in ancient Roman and Jewish histories, you will learn the significance of prophecy in the Jewish Scriptures and apocalyptic literature.

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(See related article on p. 28)



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(Please see related article on p. 5 and the *Bad Moon Rising* DVDs on p. 20.) Order book online at: http://store.levitt.com/FIGT (or see page 18)

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## **ZLM** Store

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Dr. Jeffrey Seif remembers yesterday's Holocaust and considers anti-Semitism's rise in modern-day Europe. Though dressed this time in Islamic garb and not in Nazi uniforms, anti-Semitism is making fresh headway in the world, its current surge fueled by the radical Islamic fringe as it turns out the lights of once-Christian Europe. Jeff speaks out against this trend with a prophetic voice and calls individuals, particularly Europeans and onlooking North Americans, to resist the encroaching darkness and walk in the light of God's grace and love.

When Darkness Once Prevailed Dr. Jeffrey Seif speaks from a Jewish synagogue/memorial in Dachau, where he http://store.levitt.com/DBMR draws troubling parallels between the rise of the Nazis and the rise of radical Islam.

Out of the Darkness Against the backdrop of Dachau's front gate, emblazoned with the lie "Work Will Make You Free," Jeff teaches about real freedom. A Holocaust survivor shares her remarkable story.

Dark Night of the Soul Jeff speaks from inside the barracks of Dachau. Sandra Levitt and Will King interview survivors who worked on the bunker where Hitler planned to manufacture his Messerschmitt aircraft.

Bright Lights in a Darkened World "March of Life" participants express support for the Jewish people and the need to "lift the veil of silence." Jeff speaks from the Dachau crematorium about the Jews who were shoved into ovens.

The Darkness that Nearly Engulfed Us Jeff teaches from the German site where Hitler nearly succeeded in developing an atomic bomb. Zola interviews Dr. Ergun Caner, a former Muslim who shares his insights on Islam.

Letting the Sun Shine Jeff teaches from the site of Hitler's atomic reactor, admonishing the viewer to draw a line in the sand. We are warned that the greatest tragedy would be to think that such things can't happen again.

A Star that Breaks Through the Darkness Sandra and Jeff interview Brigitte Gabriel, formerly of Lebanon, who has appeared on many network TV shows sounding an alarm about the evils of radical Islam.

Heavenly Light from Hellish Darkness Walid Shoebat shares insights regarding Islam from his book Why We Want To Kill You. Zola interviews Caecelie Rexin, who concludes—referring to the Holocaust—"Never again."

#### Also please see:

a. Scott Stewart's article "The Acute Jihadist Threat" p. 5, and b. The book Is Fanatic Islam a Global Threat? on p.17.





Order DVD online at:

(or see page 18)

FEATURED

## **Not Having Seizures about Caesars Scandal**

#### WISE AS A SERPENT / By Mark Levitt

In February, New Jersey gambling regulators fined Caesars Entertainment Corp. \$225,000 for the casino giant's role in a 2007 gambling spree in which a self-confessed gambling addict lost more than \$120 million at Caesars casinos in Las Vegas. A related *Wall Street Journal* article, posted at http://wp.me/pieUD-1Gl, inspires comparisons of gamblers playing with poker chips and investors striving to stretch their retirement savings.

Who loses more? Who is better protected? More people "play" on Wall Street than in Las Vegas. Vegas doesn't hide the fact that dealers work for the house. On Wall Street, the action is in broad diversification over the long run, but it's imperative to minimize the "vig," which is the percentage taken by the house.

Consider too the WSJ MarketWatch article "Mutual Fund Casinos Still Skimming Billions." One of its highlights: "Welcome to the world's biggest casino! Vegas? No, the mutual fund industry." Also, a Scott Burns article tells us "How We Lose in the Mutual Fund Casino"... by allowing the [brokerage] house to take too much. Burns's "What Las Vegas Can Teach Us About Mutual Fund Investing" is worth reading. Do yourself a favor: scan his blog topics at http://assetbuilder.com/blogs/scott\_burns.

Back to Caesars's spectacular victim. "Industry insiders believe the gambling spree, by former toy entrepreneur Terrance Watanabe, to be the single largest continuous binge in Las Vegas history." Mr. Watanabe claimed that he was intoxicated on casino-provided alcohol and painkillers. (Many stock investors are more "intoxicated" than they realize with fear and/or greed.) The casinos argued that they provided Mr. Watanabe with top suites, security, limos, and food. (Stock brokerages ply their prospects with ... um ... prospectuses and warm, fuzzy promises about caring, and veiled representations about being able to select solid propositions with optimal timing. Balderdash!)

The WSJ article makes reference to a Caesars "Compliance Committee." Stock brokerages have compliance officers too. That unfortunate euphemism soothes too many into visualizing a legalistic nerd who is dedicated to ensuring that the casino/brokerage complies with the law. Based on Zola's and my own experience with A.G. Edwards and substantial reading about other stock brokerage scandals, that position too often would be better termed Plausible Deniability Officer.

The Nevada Gaming Control Board investigated the incident but didn't fine Caesars. I hereby deem them just as ineffective as the U.S. Securities and Exchange Commission was at timely catching Bernie Madoff.

I sincerely hope that this article (and prior *Serpent* installments which you can see at www.levitt.com/essays) awakens readers to the necessity of becoming wise as serpents (Matt.10:16). After all, the world of investment advice is a snake pit.









Comments from www.levitt.com

**From J.H. (AZ):** Watching the *Ruth* series opened my eyes. I had never thought of the story in terms of gentiles being grafted-in, or of the blessing we can be to Israel.

**From J.C. (GA):** Thank you for being such a rich treasure for us by feeding us spiritually. Blessings and shalom to you. May Adonai spread your tent pegs wider (Isaiah 54:2).

**From E.B. (NV):** I am very glad that Zola's ministry continues. I used to get the *Levitt Letter* but never updated my address with you after we moved. Please note the change and continue to send your news magazine. I really miss it. Dear Readers: If you're about to move, please advise us of your new address ahead of time so that your *Levitt Letters* will continue to find you instead of the trash bin. Giving us at least a month's notice, if possible, eases the transition. —Mark

**From R.W. (MD):** Your TV program has put a hunger in my heart to study the Bible from a Hebraic viewpoint. I am richly blessed by Katharine and Myles every week. Keep up the good work!

To Index

**From J.T. (OK):** We can't afford cable, and don't watch TBN anymore, so we don't get to see *Zola Levitt Presents*. However, we love our *Levitt Letter* and hungrily devour it every month! Facebook is a great way to keep connected with ZLM. We buy the crossed-flags pins to give out to Jewish kids who work in the mall (they express such joy and surprise!), and also to people who remark positively about the ones we wear. Thank you for continuing the Lord's work. We depend on you. — Please note that if you can see us on Facebook, you can also view our archived TV programs at www.levitt.tv. In addition to the two-flag pins, you might also share our Prophesied Messiah bookmark, which lists OT prophecies and NT fulfillments regarding Yeshua. — Blessings, Myles and Katharine



#### LETTERS TO ZLM continued

#### If Everyone Did This ...

Dear ZLM,

I have increased my monthly donation by 5- not a lot, I agree; but if everyone did this, it would help. I am now retired and I asked the Lord to let me maintain my giving, or increase. -S.W. (OH)

#### Dear S.W.-

Thanks so much for the \$5 increase in your monthly offering. We were struck by your humble tone, and agree that it would make a difference if every one of our donors did the same! It would tremendously affect our ability to minister on an even greater level. *Todah Rabah* (Hebrew for thank you very much) for your kind words and generosity. —Myles and Katharine

#### **Blessed by David Minay**

#### Dear Myles,

We were blessed by the *Personal Letter* (March 2013) about David Minay. He was our driver in 2004 and helped find a clinic in Tiberias when C. was injured. Please let him know we appreciate him. -J. and C.S. (CO)

#### Dear J. and C.S.-

We will certainly send your regards to David, our outstanding driver and exemplary *mensch* (good guy). We hope to do a program about his community of Ashkelon and the suffering they experience due to the neighbors in Gaza and their constant rocket attacks. Your contribution gets us closer to that goal.

Blessings - Myles

#### Flirting with Anti-Semitism

Dear Myles,

Re: Ten Lost Tribes Found (April *Levitt Letter*, p. 33). There is a large body of scholarship dedicated to studying the non-Jewish Israelites. Clues are given as to the latter day whereabouts and identities of all of the prophetic 13 tribes of Israel. The Jews do not fulfill these prophecies. The Scots and Spartans both claim that they are Israelites. Queen Elizawill not laugh when they say
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beth II of Great Britain occupies the throne of David today. The United States of America and the British Commonwealth are both prophesied in Genesis 35:11. – Dr. L.C.B. (AL)

#### Shalom Dr. L.C.B.-

I am concerned that your "research" is leading toward a marginalizing of the known Jewish people in a misunderstanding of Scripture and Jewish history. You are flirting with Replacement Theology and I would caution you to ask whether anti-Semitism is behind the answers in your study. Thank God He will preserve His Chosen; we need to continue to share the Good News with them. Blessings – Myles





#### Lifelong Dream Come True

Dear Myles and Katharine,

We look forward to the *Levitt Letter*. You both are a wonderful addition to the ministry. Your teachings are superb! We also enjoyed Sandra's, Jeff's, and Todd's, as well as Zola's (of which we love to see reruns and reprints).

We were blessed to go to Israel 13 years ago, and it was a lifelong dream come true. I only wish we could go again – but this time with your ministry. Age-related health issues prevent that, unfortunately. –H.H. and T.H. (NV)

#### Dear H.H. and T.H.-

Thanks for the kind words and the reflections on your trip to Israel. Also for receiving Katharine and me as the new teachers for the ministry. We would love to host you in the Land, and pray your health will allow such an opportunity. There is nothing like a trip to Israel to enliven one's spiritual life. (see p.34) Shalom – Myles and Katharine

#### What Can Believers Do?

Dear ZLM,

Re: Your cover story, The Evil that Israel Faces (April *Levitt Letter*, www.levitt.com/newsletters/2013-04.pdf). Thanks for the title and emphasis of this *Letter*. It is a relief to hear the truth spoken head-on about Israel.



I am not entirely sure where our role as Believers stands at this time. Are there specific messages that are going to help the Jews? Perhaps there are varying roles for each one of us within the body of Christ. -C.N.

#### Dear C.N.-

Thanks for your thoughtful letter regarding our responsibilities as *talmidim* (disciples) in our generation. Clearly you are prayerfully considering what we are to do (and eschew) as the return of Messiah gets closer. I am struck by the enormous task and the joy of watching, praying, warning, exhorting, sharing, loving, and being involved with our Jewish people as much as possible. The heart of the Lord is full for His natural brethren ... ours should be as well. Yours clearly is; so, thank you! — Myles

#### **Israel Deserves Accolades**

Dear ZLM,

Re: Israel—The Only Free Country in MidEast (April Levitt Letter, p. 1). Why is there no mention of this news about Israel in the mainstream media? -A.W. (TX)

#### Dear A.W.-

It's not surprising though, is it, that Israel receives no accolades for its democracy in the midst of an almost exclusively dictator-led Middle East? The veil over the hearts and eyes of the mainstream media continues, making our work even more appropriate and vital. Thanks for your discerning spirit; I trust the Lord will continue to use you to clarify who's who and what's what in Israel's neighborhood! Frustrated as ever, we continue to proclaim the truth and pray for God's reality to break through! God bless you. —Myles



#### Allah is NOT the God of Israel

#### Dear ZLM,

In April's *Levitt Letter*, B.K. asked why the author of the Bible couldn't be the same as the author of the Koran.

Compare what the Koran says about Jesus. Over two dozen times the Koran categorically states that Allah has no equals, has begotten no one, and requires no assistants (such as the Holy Spirit). It totally denies the possibility of a Holy Trinity.

The Bible just as emphatically identifies Jesus as the Son of God.

Now, God either has a begotten Son or He doesn't; it can't be both ways. One of the books is false; take your choice (an easy choice in my opinion).

The only way both books could be correct is for Allah to be a different deity from Jehovah God, the best explanation in my view. If this is true, Allah is at best simply another false god, such as Baal, Ashtoreth, Molech, etc. At worst, Allah is simply another name for Satan, a view I happen to hold.

Thanks for your ministry. I'd love to visit Israel again, but health prevents. I went with Zola back in the early '90s, and it was truly a trip of a lifetime, several lifetimes in fact. -S.C. (AZ)

#### Shalom S.C.-

Thanks for your addition to our analysis of the Koran vs. the Bible. You are spot on—and provide strong evidence of different authorship. Sadly, our current penchant for political correctness and "leveling" every playing field has blurred these vital distinctions. ZLM is committed to shouting the truth from the house-tops. Thanks for helping us to do so. —Myles

#### Ashamed of Anti-Semitic "Christians"

#### Dear ZLM,

Re: How Christians Lose Credibility with Israelis (April *Levitt Letter*, p. 14). I am a Roman Catholic. I love the Lord and am ashamed of what I see in many of the Catholic and Protestant churches. May the God of Israel and the King of the Jews help us all. – J.K.C. (CA)

#### Shalom, J.K.C.-

Katharine was raised Catholic and received a solid foundation regarding the facts of the Gospel. We have many friends who are active, Israelloving Catholics, and we have ministered alongside Father Dimitri Sala in moments of deep repentance and reconciliation. In every generation, a faithfilled remnant in every group follows the Jewish Messiah. Let's continue to reach for the things we have in common and speak out against that which is error. God bless you. \* -Myles and Katharine

A Zionist Believer at a pro-Israel rally in NYC last fall.



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## Israeli Professor Wins Award for Securing Internet Transactions SCIENCE: By Judy Siegel-Itzkovich / JPost.com

The Turing Award of the Association for Computing Machinery – considered the most prestigious prize for computing (as there is no Nobel Prize in the field) – will go to cryptography expert **Professor Shafi Goldwasser** (below) of the Weizmann Institute of Science's computer science and applied mathematics department.

Goldwasser will share the \$250,000 award with Professor Silvio Micali of the Massachusetts Institute of Technology for their "transformative work that laid the complexity-theoretic foundations for the science of cryptography and, in the process, pioneered new methods for efficient verification of mathematical proofs in complexity theory. Their work involves innovations that became the gold standard for enabling secure Internet transactions."

The prize is funded by Intel Corporation and Google Inc. and will be awarded at the Association for Computing Machinery's awards banquet on June 15 in San Francisco.

Goldwasser is the third member of the Rehovot institute to receive the award. The others are professors Amir Pnueli (1996) and Adi Shamir (2002). She is the fifth Israeli and the third woman to win the prize.

The award is named in memory of Alan Turing, the British "father" of computer science and artificial intelligence and a mathematician who was a renowned

code breaker in the Second World War.

In their 1984 paper on "Probabilistic Encryption," Goldwasser and Micali laid the rigorous foundations for modern cryptography. The work is universally credited with changing cryptography from an "art" to a "science."



This paper pioneered several themes that are today considered basic to the field, including the introduction of formal security definitions that are now the gold standard for security.

Vint Cerf, president of the Association for Computing Machinery, said the practical impact of the ideas put forward by Goldwasser and Micali is "...tangible. The method of encrypting credit-card numbers when shopping on the Internet meets their test. We are indebted to these recipients for their innovative approaches to ensuring security in the digital age."

A graduate of Carnegie Mellon University with a BA degree in mathematics, Goldwasser received advanced degrees in computer science from the University of California at Berkeley and joined the Weizmann Institute in 1993 as a full professor.



# **Better Hearing Through Rats**

MEDICINE: By Judy Siegel-Itzkovich / JPost.com

ken,

To

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The research of Hebrew University neurobiologist Prof. **Israel Nelken**, who led a team investigating brain activity in the auditory cortices of rat brains, could lead to the development of better hearing aids in humans. The findings were published recently in the prestigious journal *Neuron*.

"We wanted to know what is and what is not important in hearing, which occurs through the ears but even more in the brain," said Nelken. Rats, he notes, are very intelligent animals, and their hearing is as good as that of many other mammals. By implanting multiple tiny electrodes in rat auditory cortices, the part of the cortex that responds to sound, the team studied the effects of "surprise sounds" on the rats' neuronal activity.

Brain activity in single neurons was assessed. "We found that activity of neurons is sensitive to surprise. A sequence of identical tones creates expectations even in anesthetized mammals, and the responses to rare tones tend to be stronger than responses to common ones," he said.

"Near my home in Jerusalem is a school for deaf children, and a sign has been posted to warn drivers that deaf children are crossing the road," says Nelken. "One would expect such a sign outside a school for the blind. But hearing provides important information about events around you, and a deaf child doesn't hear the noise behind him. Sounds come from all directions, not only ahead where he can see what is happening, so unexpected noise is extremely important."

People who have normal hearing are more sensitive to slight differences between tones. "We showed that sensitivity to surprising tones is much stronger; the brain learns very quickly and the activity is reduced in response to expected sounds."

Nelken says that rats are smarter, more aggressive, and have more interesting behavior than mice. But similar phenomena have been tested elsewhere in rhesus monkeys, mice, gerbils, and cats as well as in birds, such as barn owls, he says, suggesting that the underlying mechanisms are very basic to the function of any sensory system.



"Our central question was how the senses work to collect information from the past and learn from it how to function better in the world. Sensitivity to surprise is very important. If a rat has greater ability to predict future events in the world, it will be able to collect more rewards in the form of food, locating a place to live, and finding a mate. The more the past can be used to predict the future, the easier rewards will be won," he continues.

The same basic mechanism of repeated sounds may be involved in all kinds of human psychiatric diseases, including schizophrenia. In future research, Nelken and his team hope to "understand the borders of early hearing involving surprise and how this affects behavior."

# Iran Cools Nuclear Work as Vote Looms

BY JAY SOLOMON / online.WSJ.com (Also see "The Iranian Menace" on p.17.)

Supreme Leader Ayatollah Ali Khamenei is keeping Iran's nuclear program within limits demanded by Israel for now, according to senior U.S., European, and Israeli officials. They believe the move is designed to avert an international crisis during an Iranian election year.

With a vote set for June, Khamenei is eager to place a leader more aligned with his positions than current president Mahmoud Ahmadinejad, without sparking a repeat of the nationwide unrest that followed the 2009 vote.

Khamenei is the ultimate decision maker on Iran's diplomacy and nuclear program, according to Iranian officials. The 73-year-old cleric initially supported Ahmadinejad, including in the disputed 2009 presidential elections. Khamenei, however, is believed to have grown wary of the outspoken Ahmadinejad, whose second and final term is ending.

Ahmadinejad has been a staunch defender of Iran's nuclear program but has also shown a willingness to negotiate. In late 2009, Tehran agreed to ship out the majority of its enriched uranium to a third country, a deal that was seen as backed by Iran's president. The pact fell apart, though, after Khamenei ruled against it, a signal of Ahmadinejad's limited power.

U.S. and European officials worried that Khamenei might challenge Israel and the U.S. over the nuclear issue to consolidate his political position. But instead of pressing an agenda that could heighten tensions between Tehran and the international community, the opposite is happening, for the time being.



(continued next page)



# Nuclear Work: Continued

Ayatollah Ali Khamenei

Khamenei's approach is placing the West in a delicate strategic position, possibly constraining its response to Iran's nuclear program. U.S., European, and Israeli officials have described 2013 as the "critical" year in Iran's nuclear program.

International negotiations aimed at containing Iran's nuclear program resumed recently, likely to be the last round of diplomacy with Tehran until after the June elections. Seeking to ward off international pressure, Iranian nuclear officials have kept the country's stockpile of uranium enriched to 20% purity below 250 kilograms (550 pounds). Iran would need such an amount – processed further into weapons-grade fuel – to produce one atomic bomb, experts believe. It is also the amount Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu told the UN in September that the world should prevent Iran from amassing, through a military strike if necessary.

U.S. and Israeli officials believe Iran's moves represent a delay, rather than a change of heart, and that other actions are accelerating the pace at which the country could create weapons-grade fuel. It has installed thousands of new centrifuge machines at an underground military facility in Qom, the UN's IAEA reported. The site, called Fordow, is in a fortified bunker and seen as largely immune to U.S. or Israeli military strikes.

Diplomatic negotiations focus on getting Tehran to cease its production of 20%enriched uranium and agree to ship out a sizable portion of its stockpile to a third country. This approach is seen as limiting Iran's ability to quickly attempt to produce nuclear weapons. In return, the West offers to reduce some of the economic sanctions imposed on Tehran in recent years.

### "Slaughter the Jews!"

By Ryan Jones / Israel Today

Doha-based *Echo Media Qatar* has begun work on a multimillion-dollar movie commemorating the 7th-century extermination of an entire Jewish community in Arabia by the Prophet "[Remember] Khaibar, Khaibar, oh Jews! The army of Muhammad will return!"

Mohammed and his early Muslim followers. Titled *Khaibar* after the name of the Jewish town that was wiped out, the movie was written by a prominent Egyptian screenwriter and will feature a number of famous Arab actors from across the region.

Qatar-based *Al-Jazeera* described the film as a worthy portrayal of "the most important feature of the Islamic-Jewish struggle. Muslims always raise its name [Khaibar] in their rallies against Israel as it constitutes a memory of a harsh defeat for the Jews who lived in the Arabian Peninsula during the time of the Prophet."

Indeed, chants of "Remember Khaibar!" and *Itbach al-Yahud!* (Slaughter the Jews) remain regular features of Arab demonstrations across the Middle East, which is one reason why many Israelis remain skeptical about "peace." They simply do not believe that the Muslim masses have moved past their desire to either eliminate or subjugate the Jews.







#### Ethiopian Wins Beauty Contest Israel Today

**Yityish Aynaw** has become the first Jewess of Ethiopian origin to win the Miss Israel beauty pageant! The 21year-old model and former army officer came to Israel nearly a decade ago.

"It's important that a member of the Ethiopian community wins the competition for the first time," Aynaw said. "There are many different communities of many different colors in Israel, and it's important to show that to the world."

Aynaw made *aliyah* (immigrated to Israel) with her family when she was 12, young enough to learn Hebrew quickly and speak it without an accent. During the competition, she said that one of her heroes is the late American civil rights activist Martin Luther King. "He fought for justice and equality, and that's one of the reasons I'm here," Aynaw said. "I want to show that my community has many pretty qualities that aren't always represented in the media."

Fittingly, she received a special invitation to dine with President Barack Obama during his visit here, at the residence of President Shimon Peres. I am "the first black Miss Israel to be chosen and he is the first black American president," Aynaw told *The Jerusalem Post.* "These go together."

#### Saudi to Surgically Paralyze Criminal By Sami Aboudi / Reuters

Amnesty International has condemned a Saudi Arabian court ruling that a 24year-old man should be paralyzed as punishment for a crime he committed 10 years ago which resulted in the victim being confined to a wheelchair. The *Saudi Gazette* newspaper reported that Ali al-Khawaher had stabbed a childhood friend in the spine during a dispute a decade ago, paralyzing him from the waist down.

The Arabic-language *al-Hayat* daily quoted Khawaher's 60-year-old mother as saying her son was a juvenile aged 14 at the time of the offense. She said the victim had demanded 2 million riyals to pardon her son and later reduced this to 1 million (\$270,000). "We don't have even a tenth of this sum," she said.

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Saudi Arabia applies Islamic sharia law, which allows eye-for-an-eye punishment for crimes but allows victims to pardon convicts in exchange for so-called blood money.





### Woman, 104, Making First Trip to Holy Land

By Jessica Parks / Philly.com

It took 104 years, but Eleanor Hall is finally making a pilgrimage to the Holy Land.

The itinerary for the 10-day trip is ambitious. Every day is packed with sightseeing, bus rides, and cultural events.

Hall isn't worried about the rigors of travel. "If I want to sit down, I don't have to tell everyone ... I will just sit down."

Last year Hall went to Washington to see the cherry blossoms. "We brought a wheelchair, but the only thing in the wheelchair was the coats."

Her trip caught the attention of Israel's consul general, who invited Hall and her fellow travelers to a reception at the Philadelphia consulate. "Many elderly people travel to Israel. But to have someone undertake their first trip to Israel at this advanced age really shows their passion, love of the Land, devotion, and curiosity," Consul General Yaron Sideman said.

#### Amsterdam Taxed Holocaust Survivors In Hiding JTA.org

Amsterdam fined hundreds of Jewish Holocaust survivors for failing to pay city taxes while they were in hiding or in concentration camps.

*Het Parool,* a local daily, reported recently that many of the houses in question were confiscated and used by members

> of the NSB Dutch Nazi party while the Jewish owners were in hiding or in camps.

The city went after survivors as late as 1947, the report said. Other Dutch municipalities waived such debts. The following year, the city agreed to reimburse half of the charges to some Jews who were taxed in absentia. The city's archives contain 342 requests for reimbursement.

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Charlotte van den Berg, a 23-year-old university student, discovered the documents bundled with an elastic band in the archive section of one of the city's departments while conducting research on Jewish homeowners.

A city spokesperson said that the city would investigate the matter, including how much money was collected from Holocaust survivors, together with the NIOD Institute for War, Holocaust, and Genocide Studies.

About 75 percent of Holland's pre-World War II Jewish population of 140,000 was murdered in the Holocaust, according to the Center for Information and Documentation on Israel (CIDI), a Hague-based watchdog on anti-Semitism.

### Militant Hideouts in the HISTORY: Webmaster SovereignChallenge.org

The Sinai Peninsula has been a haven for militants and illicit activity since Egypt lost the territory to Israel for more than a decade after the Six-Day War in 1967. The geographic location of the peninsula makes it more useful as a logistical hub for smuggling weapons and supplies than as a staging platform for attacks. Still, with the Egyptian military distracted by unrest in Cairo and other urban population centers, the vast, lightly populated, and insecure desert region has seen an uptick in jihadist and militant attacks in recent years. Both Egypt and Israel (which shares a long land border with Sinai) have an interest in suppressing militancy in the area, but geographic and political constraints limit their ability to do so.

Since 1948, Sinai has served as either a buffer zone or a battlefield between Egypt and Israel. After Egypt's defeat in the Six-Day War, Israel occupied the peninsula until the 1979 peace treaty returned it to Egyptian control, albeit under conditions that limited the Egyptian military's presence in the area.

The most striking feature of Sinai is its physical isolation. The Gulf of Suez to the west separates the peninsula from mainland Egypt; the Gulf of Aqaba to the east separates it from Saudi Arabia and the rest of the Arabian Peninsula. To the north, Sinai borders the Mediterranean Sea. Throughout history, the peninsula has been a valuable route for overland trade between Asia and Africa, and its strategic significance has continued into the modern day with maritime trade after the construction of the Suez Canal.

Despite its position as the land bridge between the continents, the Sinai Peninsula's harsh terrain and lack of natural resources have left it relatively unpopulated and undeveloped. The northern part of Sinai consists of sand dunes and beaches, with its relatively flat and uniform terrain broken in some places by hills. The central region is made up of the lightly populated El Tih plateau, and toward the south are highlands consisting of granite and volcanic rocks. Sinai's small population lives primarily on the northern edge of the peninsula, along the Suez Canal, and along the southern tip, including the popular tourist destination of Sharm el-Sheikh.

EGYPTIAN SECURITY FORCES arrest suspected militants [read: terrorists] after a firefight in Egypt's north Sinai region.





Sinai

# Ancient Iraqi Hometown of Abraham

ARCHAEOLOGY: BY SINAN SALAHEDDIN / Associated Press

British archaeologists have unearthed a sprawling complex near the ancient city of Ur in southern Iraq, home of the biblical Abraham. The structure, thought to be about 4,000 years old, probably served as an administrative center for Ur, around the time Abraham would have lived there before leaving for Canaan.

The compound is near the site of the partially reconstructed ziggurat, or Sumerian temple, said Stuart Campbell of Manchester University's Archaeology Department, who led the dig with M.U. colleague Dr. Jane Moon and independent archaeologist Robert Killick.

"This is a breathtaking find," Campbell said, because of its unusually large size – roughly the size of a soccer field, or about 260 feet on each side. The archaeologist said complexes of this size and age were rare.

The complex of rooms around a large courtyard was found 12 miles from Ur, the last capital of the Sumerian royal dynasties whose civilization flourished 5,000 years ago.

Campbell said one of the artifacts they unearthed was a 3.5-inch clay plaque *(top right)* showing a worshipper wearing a long, fringed robe, approaching a sacred site. Beyond artifacts, the site could reveal the environmental and economic conditions of the region through analysis of plant and animal remains, the archaeological team said in a statement.

The dig began early this year when the six-member British team worked with four Iraqi archaeologists to dig 200 miles south of Baghdad. Decades of war and violence have kept international archaeologists away from Iraq, where significant archaeological sites, as yet unexplored, are located. Still, the dig showed that such collaborative missions could be possible in parts of Iraq that are relatively stable, like its Shiite-dominated south.

Campbell's team was the first British-led archaeological dig in southern Iraq since

the '80s. Iraq faces a broader problem of protecting its archaeological heritage. Its 12,000 registered archaeological sites are poorly quarded.



## **Israel's Love is Transforming**

BY RANDY NEAL / TimesOflsrael.com

As thirty-two pastors sat down to

dinner before heading to the airport for their flights home from Israel, they were asked to think of a word or two that described the recent six days of travel through the Holy Land. As they took turns to reflect, they didn't say it was "great." They didn't say it was "fun." They didn't say it was "wonderful" or "fabulous" – though it was all of that and much more. The words they used were "awakening," "life-changing," "transforming."

Since seminary, any one of them could draw maps from memory of Israel's expansions, contractions, foreign occupations, and re-establishment. They could name cities and sites where people in the Bible were born, went into battle, and were buried. They could mark where Jesus Christ was born, walked, taught, performed miracles, was crucified, and rose again. They have preached and taught for decades about the Israelite prophets and patriarchs whom God used as guills to record His Word, what He has done in this Land, the people He gave it to, and the covenants He made with them. But for nearly all of these pastors, this was the first time they had ever experienced Israel. Experiencing Israel firsthand forever changed the way that they would think, preach, and teach about Israel and the Jewish people.

Each time I visit Israel with a group of Christian pilgrims, I see and experience this feeling of having one's faith uplifted. From Golgotha to the Galilee, the sights and sounds of Israel bring the Scriptures to life. And though it takes different forms, at some point, every person who has joined me in Israel experiences a spiritual epiphany that remains for the rest of their lives. However, on this trip, it was my faith in humanity that was moved.



Memorial, compels visitors to face the depths of human depravity. Man is capable of immense evil. At Israel's border with Lebanon, where Iranianbacked terrorists stand just yards away from young Israeli soldiers, one confronts the reality that such evil still exists today.

Given this history and the modern reality, one might forgive Israelis for any hostility toward strangers - but there is no need. In Israel, visitors of all faiths are welcomed with open arms. We can pray to God in any manner and any language. It is nothing short of miraculous that the Jewish response to 2,000 years of persecution is to embrace religious pilgrims.

This exceptional Israeli attitude induced me to reconsider the depth of Paul's first letter to the Corinthians where he writes, "And now these three remain: faith, hope, and love. But the greatest of these is love."

In spite of what Europeans did to the Jewish people, Israel loves the strangers in its midst.

On this visit to Israel, my epiphany was that while people are still capable of great sin, Israel's embrace of Christian pilgrims shows us that human beings are still capable of greatness.

Randy Neal has been a Christian Zionist friend and vocal advocate for Israel for many years. Thanks to his work, many pastors are "getting it." -Myles ×

(See "Israel, My Love" DVDs on p.11.)

Yad Vashem, Israel's Holocaust

# Jewish humor, etc.

#### **HOW'S THAT AGAIN?**

Old Morty had serious hearing problems for years. He went to the doctor, who fitted him for a hearing aid that miraculously allowed Morty to hear again—perfectly.

At Morty's follow-up visit a month later, the doctor said, "Your hearing is near 100%. Your family must be really pleased that you can hear again."

"Oh, I haven't told my family yet," Morty replied. "I just sit around and listen to their conversations. I've changed my will three times!"



The obituary editor of *The Jerusalem Daily* does not admit his mistakes easily. One day, he got a phone call from an irate subscriber. The caller complained that his name had been printed in the obituary column.

"Really?" replied the editor calmly. "And from where are you calling?"

\*



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A cheerful heart is good medicine – Proverbs 17:22



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